



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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States Reach Landmark Compromise on Scup Summer Period Fishery: *Emergency Rule for the Scup Fishery Approved*

Alexandria, Virginia – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board yesterday approved the Emergency Rule for the Scup Fishery, which provides a state-by-state quota-based allocation scheme for the states to implement their summer period scup fisheries. The Board also adopted a revised, coastwide total allowable landings amount of 1,319,270 pounds for the summer period, which extends from May 1 through October 31.

"Reaching this decision was no small feat," stated William P. Jensen, Management Board Chair. Mr. Jensen continued, "The states have worked long and hard to get to this level of agreement, and while no state has gotten exactly what it wanted or needed for its constituents, all states agree that the compromise that was struck provides a workable management program for the summer fishery."

Yesterday's action by the Board was in large part driven by the states' concern over the lack of a workable state/federal management program for the summer period. In the absence of the states' compromise, the summer period fishery would have likely exceeded any quota that could have been agreed to by the Management Board. With this negotiated compromise each state has committed to closing its fishery once its quota has been met.

The Emergency Rule was developed in response to concern over the management program for the summer period scup fishery. Currently, the fishery is managed under two different regimes – the Commission's plan uses a state-by-state quota system, while the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's plan uses a quota system. These two regimes have caused difficulties in ensuring that the summer period quota is not exceeded. The purpose of the Emergency Rule was to resolve these difficulties and ensure that the summer period quota is not exceeded, and that the quota is more equitably allocated among jurisdictions and user groups.

The management program that was adopted is a slight modification to one of the 10 options presented at state public meetings this past March. Specifically, the management program includes a state-by-state quota system based on historic landings from 1983 – 1992, with each state closing its fishery once its allocation has been met. Additionally, the states agreed to increase Massachusetts' allocation by one percent through a corresponding proportional decrease of one percent among the other states. Massachusetts will also receive any unused portion of New Jersey's allowable catch if so requested. Any state landings overages will be deducted

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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from that state's quota the following year. The following table provides each state's allocation percentage and corresponding summer period quotas.

STATE	% of Summer Quota	Year 2000 Summer Quota (Pounds)
Maine	0.1195%	1,577
New Hampshire	0.0000%	0
Massachusetts	22.5853%	297,961
Rhode Island	55.4727%	731,835
Connecticut	3.1135%	41,075
New York	15.6214%	206,088
New Jersey	2.8792%	37,984
Delaware	0.0000%	0
Maryland	0.0117%	154
Virginia	0.1629%	2,149
North Carolina	0.0246%	325
Total	100.00%	1,319,270

The Commission is finalizing the Emergency Rule, which will be available by April 17, 2000. Copies can be obtained via the Commission's webpage at www.asmfc.org or by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202)289-6400 or vjones@asmfc.org.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202)289-6051.